



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Laboratory reports of hepatitis C in England and Wales, January to March 2019

Health Protection Report

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Laboratory reports of hepatitis C infections: January to March 2019

Between January and March 2019 a total of 4604 laboratory reports of hepatitis C were reported to PHE. There was a 69.7% increase in the number of reports compared to the first quarter of 2018 (n=2713). This increase is due to the addition of previously missing backdated confirmed hepatitis C laboratory reports originating from either the private laboratory Abbott (formerly known as Alere), or a laboratory from the North West region.

Since 2017, one laboratory in the North West of England has undertaken HCV dried blood spot testing alongside hepatitis C routine laboratory testing. This single laboratory has taken on testing for a large part of the country however, some samples where geographical information is lacking, maybe incorrectly assigned to this specific laboratory rather than the laboratory from which the sample originated.

Age and sex were well reported (>97.6% complete). Where known males accounted for 70.7% (3182/4502) of reports which is consistent with previous quarters and years [1]. Adults aged 25-44 years accounted for 56.5% of the total number of hepatitis C reports.

Table 1: Laboratory reports of hepatitis C in England and Wales, January to March, 2019

Age group	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
1-4 years	3	1	0	4
5-9 years	2	0	0	2
10-14 years	3	4	0	7
15-24 years	104	72	8	184
25-34 years	680	307	14	1001
35-44 years	1074	441	26	1541
45-54 years	832	264	13	1109
55-64 years	353	140	5	498
>65 years	126	89	1	216
Unknown	5	2	35	42
Total	3182	1320	102	4604

Notes

Individuals aged less than one year are excluded since positive tests in this age group may reflect the presence of passively-acquired maternal antibody rather than true infection.

Laboratory reports are not reliable for differentiating acute and chronic hepatitis C infections. Laboratory reports include individuals with a positive test for hepatitis C antibody, antigen and/or detection of hepatitis C RNA

A small proportion of these specimens are diagnosed following dried blood spot (DBS) testing however not all DBS testing is reported by laboratories

Laboratory reports are presented broken down by Operational Delivery Network (ODN). ODNs were launched in April 2013 following the publication of the NHS England strategy to sustain and develop clinical networks.

ODNs are the networks through which hepatitis C treatment is being delivered across England. Between January and March 2019, 3903 out of 4604 individuals have been allocated to an ODN.

Table 2: Laboratory reports of hepatitis C by Operational Delivery Network, January to March, 2019

Primary ODN	Total
Barts	140
Birmingham	278
Bristol and Severn	170
Cheshire and Merseyside	172
Eastern Hepatitis Network	275
Greater Manchester and Eastern Cheshire	493
Humber and North Yorkshire	102
Kent Network via Kings	49
Lancashire and South Cumbria	154
Leicester	161
North Central London	147
North East and Cumbria	219
Nottingham	210
South Thames Hepatitis Network	245
South West Peninsula	60
South Yorkshire	118
Surrey Hepatitis Services	160
Sussex Hepatology Network	89
Thames Valley Hep C ODN	107
Wessex Hep C ODN	126
West London	200
West Yorkshire	228

Notes

ODNs are based on NHS England Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) geographic boundaries. NHS England allocates a primary or lead ODN for CCGs which may cross two ODNs. Bristol and Severn, Surrey Hepatitis Services, and North East and Cumbria were ODNs which between them had 110 individuals that could also be assigned to a second ODN.

References

1. Laboratory reports of hepatitis C in England and Wales, 2018, Public Health England
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/822683/hpr2719_HCV-ann18.pdf

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About Health Protection Report

Health Protection Report is a national public health bulletin for England and Wales, published by Public Health England. It is PHE's principal channel for the dissemination of laboratory data relating to pathogens and infections/communicable diseases of public health significance and of reports on outbreaks, incidents and ongoing investigations.

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